

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
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Rooftop Solar Pilot Project

Los Angeles County has long been a leader in many areas of environmental policy. Through the leadership of this Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County set a goal of reducing energy consumption in its buildings by 20% and requiring that most new buildings be built to the LEED-Silver level of certification or better. These policies are sound, from an environmental and fiscal perspective, since the County spends approximately \$150 million per year on electricity and natural gas.

The effort to make buildings more energy efficient is, and should remain, the first “green building” priority for the County. But many other public agencies, including the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, have gone beyond simply increasing energy efficiency and have installed solar panels on their buildings. Their experience shows that, when done correctly, installing solar is good for both the environment and the agencies’ budgets. To date, however, the County has installed solar systems on fewer than 20 of the 1,154 buildings that the County owns. The Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Internal Services should accelerate the County’s adoption of solar and should develop a pilot project to install additional solar panels on County buildings.

MOTION

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At the present time, various organizations have proposed models that would facilitate the installation of solar panels on public and private rooftops throughout Southern California. Under one such model, the County could install solar on ten to fifteen buildings with minimal upfront cost and without needing to use the buildings as collateral for any loans. In addition to this model, other non-profit and/or for-profit entities may be interested in working with the County to facilitate installation of solar systems on County-owned buildings. Alternately, the County could invest its own money, or use grant funds, and proceed without relying on third-party financing.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of Internal Services, working in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer and other appropriate departments, to:

- 1) Initiate a competitive contracting process to implement a Rooftop Solar Pilot Project to install solar panels on up to 15 County buildings;
- 2) Return to the Board of Supervisors with the proposed contract(s), no later than 120 days from today, together with an analysis of costs using a County-financing model, so that the Board of Supervisors can select one or both of these options;
- 3) Report back to the Board of Supervisors at appropriate intervals during the contracting and installation process, and again when the solar panels are completed, regarding ways in which the County can further improve the solar installation process on County buildings in the future and;
- 4) For the first year after installation of the solar panels, submit a report back to the Board of Supervisors, on a quarterly basis, on solar panel performance and savings in energy costs. After the first year, submit the report annually.